



## Economic and Social Council

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### Statistical Commission

Thirty-third session

5-8 March 2002

Item 2 of the provisional agenda

**Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

### Provisional agenda and annotations

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  - (b) The Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System;
  - (c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata: the Task Force on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative;
  - (d) Definition and measurement of e-commerce;
  - (e) Coordination of development indicators;
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  - (h) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division;
  - (i) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;
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8. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission.
9. Report of the Commission on its thirty-third session.

### **Annotations**

#### **1. Election of officers**

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure and past practice, the Statistical Commission should elect, at its first meeting, a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur to serve from the beginning of the thirty-third session of the Commission to the beginning of the thirty-fourth session.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters**

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its thirty-second session (New York, 6-9 March 2001)<sup>1</sup> and approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2001/230. Some changes have been made, in consultation with the officers of the Commission. A proposed organization of work is before the Commission. The Commission may wish to adopt the agenda and organization of work for the session.

### **Documentation**

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2002/1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2002/L.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the state of preparation of documentation for the session (E/CN.3/2002/L.2)

### **3. Demographic and social statistics**

#### **(a) Population and housing censuses**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the proposed plans of the United Nations Statistics Division for the next census decade (2005-2014). The Commission may wish to review the emerging issues in population and housing censuses under the following five headings: (a) adapting census activities to appropriate and emerging technologies; (b) improving census management; (c) maximizing the coordinated use of data from censuses, inter-censal household surveys and administrative records; (d) developing and maintaining census mapping and geographic information systems; and (e) implementing dissemination programmes that maximize the use of census results by concerned stakeholders. The Commission may also wish to comment on the proposed plans of the Division for the decade

##### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the 2000 World Population and Housing Census Programme and the proposed plans of the United Nations Statistics Division for the next census decade (2005-2014) (E/CN.3/2002/2)

#### **(b) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation on its recent meetings and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group.

##### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/3)

#### **(c) Health statistics**

The Commission has requested a report by the World Health Organization on its activities and plans in the area of health statistics; the Commission may wish to express its views on those activities and plans.

##### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on its activities and plans in the area of health statistics (E/CN.3/2002/4)

#### **(d) Rio Group on Poverty Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics on its recent meetings and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group.

##### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/5)

**(e) Siena Group for Social Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics on its recent meetings and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/6)

**(f) Washington Group on Disability Measurement**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement on its objectives and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the objectives and work programme of the Group.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/7)

**4. Economic statistics**

**(a) National accounts**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (Convener: Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA)). With respect to the updating of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* (1993 SNA),<sup>2</sup> the report will provide information on the latest recommendations regarding the treatment of mobile phone licences in national accounts, as well as on other topics currently under discussion. Also, a proposal for the creation of a consultative/advisory group to provide technical advice to ISWGNA will be included. For the conceptual assessment of the implementation of the 1993 SNA, a revised version of the conceptual compliance questionnaire will be presented to the Commission; regarding the assessment of quality issues, the report will elaborate to what extent the data quality assessment framework developed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can be used for the assessment. Regarding the review of the treatment of intangible assets recommended by the Commission at its thirty-second session,<sup>3</sup> the report will include a proposal by ISWGNA to request the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics to carry out that research. As in previous reports, ISWGNA will also provide an integrated presentation of the work programmes of the members of ISWGNA in support of implementation of the 1993 SNA. Under points for discussion, the Commission may wish to express its views on (a) the creation of the consultative/advisory group to ISWGNA; (b) the proposal to request the Expert Group on Capital Stock Statistics to undertake the research on intangible assets; and (c) the proposals made for strengthening the work of the electronic discussion groups to promote research and discussion of SNA conceptual issues.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2002/8)

**(b) Round Table on Business Survey Frames**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames on its recent meetings, completed activities, other outputs and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Round Table.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table (E/CN.3/2002/9)

**(c) Government finance statistics**

The Commission will have before it a report prepared by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the relationship between government finance statistics and the 1993 SNA. The report will also describe methods of implementing the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001*.<sup>4</sup> The Commission may wish to comment on the relationship described and the methods outlined for implementing the *Manual*.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the relationship between government finance statistics and the *System of National Accounts, 1993* and on methods of implementing the *Government Finance Statistics Manual 2001* of the International Monetary Fund (E/CN.3/2002/10)

**(d) International Comparison Programme**

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the development of a comprehensive project plan for the implementation of the International Comparison Programme at the global level. The Commission may wish to review the plan and provide guidance for future work.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on plans for the global International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2002/11)

**(e) Ottawa Group on Price Indexes**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes on its recent meetings, completed activities, other outputs and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/12)

**(f) Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics on progress in its work on the manuals on consumer price indexes and producer price indexes, including recent meetings and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Working Group.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group (E/CN.3/2002/13)

**(g) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics on its recent meetings, completed activities, other outputs and proposed future work programme. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group and comment on the recommendations made at the fifth meeting of the Group as contained in its report.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/14)

**(h) Voorburg Group on Service Statistics**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics. The report will summarize the work accomplished by the Group in its previous three-year work programme, during which the Group concentrated on work on producer price indexes, information society statistics, and the classification of service products and activities. The report will also outline its proposed work programme for the next three-year period. The Commission may wish to review the work programme of the Group.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group (E/CN.3/2002/15)

**5. Natural resources and environment statistics**

With the convening of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002 and the submission of the revised Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting<sup>5</sup> (SEEA-2000), the year 2002 marks a milestone for the United Nations Statistics Division in the areas of environment statistics and environmental accounting. The report will summarize recent developments and the current status of work in both areas. It will outline a proposal for a work programme that focuses on methodological work, training and implementation with a view to facilitating regular data production in countries and improving the availability and quality of environmental data. The Commission may wish to consider: (a) whether it agrees with the conclusions drawn in the report; (b) the proposed work programme of the Division in the areas of environment statistics and accounting.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting. The report will summarize progress on the final draft of SEEA-2000. The Commission may wish to approve the final draft of SEEA-2000.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on environment statistics and environmental accounting (E/CN.3/2002/16)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/2002/17)

Draft revised Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/61/Rev.1)

### **6. Statistical capacity-building**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, which will describe elements of statistical capacity at the national level and consider the necessary conditions to build such capacity. It will also consider what role technical cooperation by the international community can play in supporting the build-up of national statistical capacity, and will contain a brief description of the current programme of technical cooperation of the United Nations Statistics Division. The Commission may wish to discuss the report and comment on the technical cooperation programme of the Division.

The Commission will also have before it a progress report on the work of the PARIS 21 Consortium, including its programme of subregional workshops and country follow-ups, decisions on the structure, financing and location of PARIS 21, the work programme for 2002 and 2003 to broaden and deepen the work of the Consortium, and the evaluation of its achievements that has been proposed for 2003. The Commission may wish to consider (a) its involvement in the work of PARIS 21 and (b) tailoring the work programme of PARIS 21 to meet the call of the Economic and Social Council for more attention to statistical capacity-building and better coordination between agencies.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2002/18)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a progress report on the work of the PARIS 21 Consortium on strengthening cooperation for statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2002/19)

### **7. Activities not classified by field**

#### **(a) International economic and social classifications**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the work programme on international economic and social classifications, as endorsed by the Commission at its thirtieth session.<sup>6</sup> Annex I of the report will contain the recommendations and conclusions of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications in its capacity as the central coordinating body for implementing the proposed work programme. The report will include the

recommendations of the Expert Group for the work programme and the time frame for the planned revisions of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 3<sup>7</sup> (ISIC, Rev.3) and the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0<sup>8</sup> (CPC, Version 1.0) in 2007, including information on the updates to ISIC, Rev.3 and CPC, Version 1.0 that will be available to the Commission for information as ISIC, Rev.3.1 and CPC, Version 1.1, respectively.

The Commission will also have before it a report on a project to study convergence between the Activity Classification of the European Communities (NACE) and the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). That project is currently a process involving the statistical agencies of Europe and North America. Due to its importance and the general desire to reach convergence between the major industrial classification systems, the process is providing important input into the revision process for ISIC. To reach the goal of convergence by 2007, both the relationship of the revision of ISIC and the work on convergence need to be clarified, and coordination carried out.

The Commission may wish to:

- (a) Comment on the proposed time frame for the revisions of ISIC and CPC in 2007,
- (b) Comment on the convergence project for NACE and NAICS and discuss how that process and the ISIC revision process can be best coordinated.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2002/20)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Canada, the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática of Mexico, the United States Bureau of the Census and the Statistical Office of the European Communities on the convergence of industrial classifications (E/CN.3/2002/21)

#### **(b) The Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System**

The Commission will have before it the report of IMF on recent developments in the Special Data Dissemination Standard and the General Data Dissemination System, including their role in the transparency initiatives of IMF and underlying work on data quality. The Commission may wish to express its views on those developments.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund (E/CN.3/2002/22)

#### **(c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata: the Task Force on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative**

The Commission will have before it a report presenting an overview of extensible mark-up language (XML) as an emerging standard for statistical data exchange. The Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, IMF, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Statistics Division have formed the

Task Force on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange to explore common standards for the collection and sharing of electronic data and metadata. The report will focus on using XML with existing data exchange protocols, such as the Generic Statistical Messages for Central Banks, and existing dissemination formats, such as the IMF Dissemination Standards Bulletin Board. The Commission may wish to comment on the report.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a report entitled "Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata: the Task Force on Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative" (E/CN.3/2002/23)

#### **(d) Definition and measurement of e-commerce**

Statistics of e-commerce has been given considerable attention at the national and international levels in recent years. This agenda item is intended to give to members of the Commission and all national statistical offices an indication of how some countries are approaching the definition and measurement of e-commerce, based on reports of national experience from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística of Colombia, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and the Department of Statistics of Singapore.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, the Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística of Colombia, the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and the Department of Statistics of Singapore on their work to develop the statistics of e-commerce (E/CN.3/2002/24)

#### **(e) Coordination of development indicators**

The Commission will have before it a report by the Secretary-General on the harmonization of development indicators. The report will describe the work of the United Nations Statistics Division in support of the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/27 on basic indicators in the context of the follow-up to global conferences. In particular, the report will focus on the statistical implications of the United Nations Millennium Declaration<sup>9</sup> follow-up process. In that context, a background document linked to the report will contain an analysis of so-called "indicators of a global partnership for development".

The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission entitled "An assessment of the statistical indicators derived from United Nations summit meetings". The Friends of the Chair conducted an in-depth technical analysis of about 300 conference indicators, responding to an explicit request by the Statistical Commission<sup>10</sup> and in an effort to provide leadership in the field of conference indicators. In response to the request for a limited list of indicators,<sup>11</sup> the report will propose an indicator framework containing three priority tiers. The report will also contain detailed recommendations for future work, in particular on how to maintain the indicator framework. It will also recommend a mechanism of statistical review for future proposed indicators. The Commission may wish to endorse the

technical findings contained in the report and recommend that the report be transmitted to the Economic and Social Council.

**Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General on the harmonization of development indicators (E/CN.3/2002/25)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair of the Statistical Commission entitled "An assessment of the statistical indicators derived from United Nations summit meetings" (E/CN.3/2002/26)

**(f) Meeting the needs for statistics of human development**

At the thirty-second session of the Commission, in response to the report of the Friends of the Chair (see E/CN.3/2001/18), the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) proposed to submit a paper to the Commission at its thirty-third session;<sup>12</sup> that report will be before the Commission. The report will discuss the various urgent data needs that the Office, as a user of statistics, faces in assessing global trends of human development. In particular, it will address the lack of data in specific areas, the gaps in international data series, the discrepancies between national and international data series and the discrepancies between international data series. It will also brief the Commission on the implementation of the recommendation contained in the report of the Friends of the Chair in support of the Office's continuing effort to improve the quality of the statistical content of the *Human Development Report*.<sup>13</sup>

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme on meeting the needs for statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2002/27)

**(g) Handbook of Statistical Organization**

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division describing the final phases of the work on completion of the *Handbook of Statistical Organization*,<sup>14</sup> uses that have already been made of the draft *Handbook* and immediate planned future uses. The final text of the *Handbook* is expected to have been submitted for official editing by the opening of the current session of the Commission.

**(h) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division**

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General, which will set out the basis and scope of United Nations publication and dissemination policies; explain their interpretation and application to the statistical publications prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division; and review the dissemination practice and experience of the Division with respect to printed compilations, electronic publications and dissemination on the Internet. The report will note that dissemination policy for United Nations materials on the Internet is still at an early stage of development, as is the Internet as a dissemination medium. However, notwithstanding the high demand for statistics on the Internet, it does not appear

likely that established policies of maximum cost recovery and copyright protection can be long maintained. The implications of that shift for the availability of statistics, statistics-based revenues, archivability for long-term access, and the balance of national and international data sources are still far from clear. Commission members may wish to comment on experience and plans in their countries and organizations with respect to new dissemination policies and cost recovery, among other issues, and to suggest directions for the future dissemination of international statistics.

#### **Documentation**

Report of the Secretary-General

#### **(i) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions**

This item was placed on the agenda by the Commission at the request of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1999/55. The aims are to encourage a closer relationship between the work of the Commission and that of the Economic and Social Council, and to promote harmonization of the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General containing extracts from Economic and Social Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions that are relevant to the work of the Commission and the actions taken or planned by the Commission. The Commission may wish to decide upon any action that may be necessary.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2002/L.5)

#### **(j) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes**

The report of the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-fifth session (Vienna, 18-20 September 2001) will be before the Commission. The Commission may wish to take into account, in its discussion under relevant agenda items, the views expressed by the Subcommittee at that session.

At the request of the Commission at its thirty-second session,<sup>1</sup> the United Nations Statistics Division sent an inquiry to national statistical offices asking them to provide any specific examples that they had encountered of duplication of requests for statistical data by international organizations. The Division sent the inquiry to the 53 countries that attended the thirty-second session of the Commission. Eleven countries replied. The replies were considered by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fifth session. Lead organizations were appointed by the Subcommittee to examine each instance in which a country had reported duplication. The Commission will have before it a report summarizing the outcomes of the study and proposed actions by the international organizations.

#### **Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Subcommittee on its thirty-fifth session (E/CN.3/2002/29)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical data collection from countries (E/CN.3/2002/30)

**(k) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)**

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning current work and plans and priorities, and will have before it the proposed list of expert group meetings and workshops to be held by the Division in 2002, for approval, and the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, for review and comment.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretary-General on planned expert groups and workshops (E/CN.3/2002/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretary-General containing proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for 2002-2005 (E/CN.3/2002/CRP.2)

**8. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission**

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-fourth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the thirty-fourth session.

In addition, in accordance with requests of the Economic and Social Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for 2002-2005.

Also, in an effort to promote more harmonization and coordination in the work of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it a note summarizing the activities of the Commissions on Population and Development and on Sustainable Development that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission and indicating possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission.

**Documentation**

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2002/L.3)

Note by the Secretary-General containing the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission for 2002-2005 (E/CN.3/2002/L.4)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the Commissions on Population and Development and on Sustainable Development and their possible implications for the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2002/L.6)

**9. Report of the Commission on its thirty-third session**

The Commission may wish to adopt the report on its thirty-third session, which will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council.

## Documentation

### Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-third session

#### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4 (E/2001/24)*, chap. I, sect. A.
- <sup>2</sup> Commission of the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations and World Bank (Brussels/Luxembourg, New York, Paris and Washington, D.C., 1993).
- <sup>3</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4 (E/2001/24)*, para. 19 (f).
- <sup>4</sup> Washington, D.C., International Monetary Fund (forthcoming).
- <sup>5</sup> Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 61 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.XVII.12).
- <sup>6</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4 (E/1999/24)*, para. 108.
- <sup>7</sup> Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 4, Revision 3 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 90.XVII.11).
- <sup>8</sup> Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 77 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 98.XVII.5).
- <sup>9</sup> General Assembly resolution 55/2.
- <sup>10</sup> See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 4 (E/2001/24)*, para. 45 (b).
- <sup>11</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid., para. 52 (d).
- <sup>13</sup> Published annually for UNDP by Oxford University Press, New York.
- <sup>14</sup> Statistical Papers, Series F, No. 28, Revision 1 (United Nations publication, forthcoming).